Creating a Gigabit Broadband Network in your Municipality

New Policies, State Assistance and Emerging Technologies

Colorado Municipal League – April 7, 2022

HRGreen

Broadband Discussions in the Legislature

- SB05-152: Local Government Competition Cable TV Telecom
- SB19-107: Broadband Infrastructure Installation
- HB20-1137: Broadband Grant Certification of Unserved Area Requirement
- HB21-1109: Broadband Board Changes to Expand Broadband Service
- HB22-1306: Broadband Deployment Board Grant Process

Colorado Broadband Office Update

- Clearing house for the State of Colorado's broadband programs
- Education and outreach related to policy and programming
- Manage the Broadband Deployment and Advisory Boards
- Federal funding coordination and grant making

Colorado Broadband Initiatives

- Executive Order
- State-Wide Strategic Plan
- Legislative Initiatives

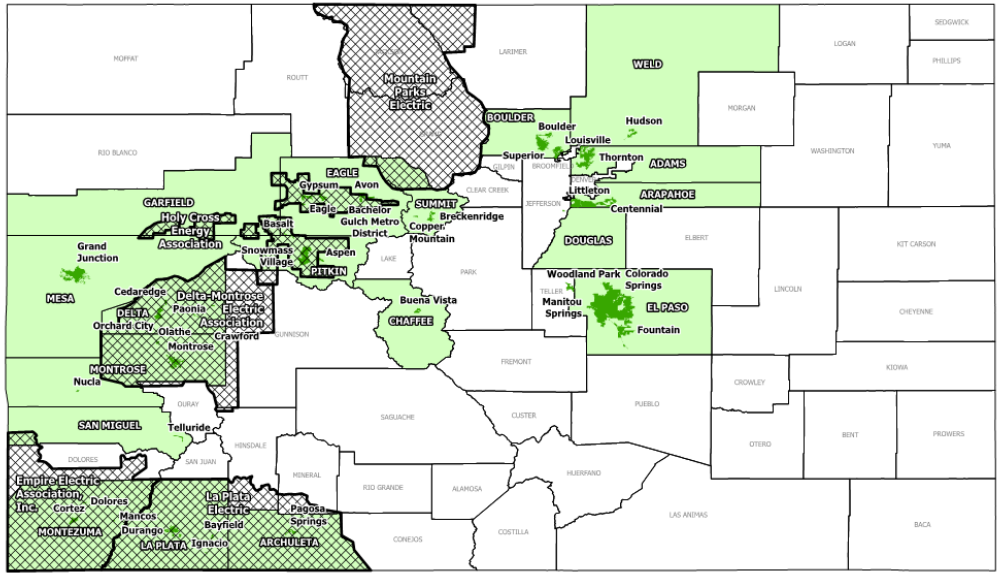
Colorado Broadband Funding Opportunities

- State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) - $35M
- Capital Projects Fund (CPF) - $162M
- Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program (BEAD) – $500M
- Digital Equity Act - $2.75B
- Middle Mile Grants - $1B

About HR Green

- Extensive experience with Colorado Broadband
- Focus on public sector planning and implementation

HR Green's Colorado Broadband and Fiber Clients



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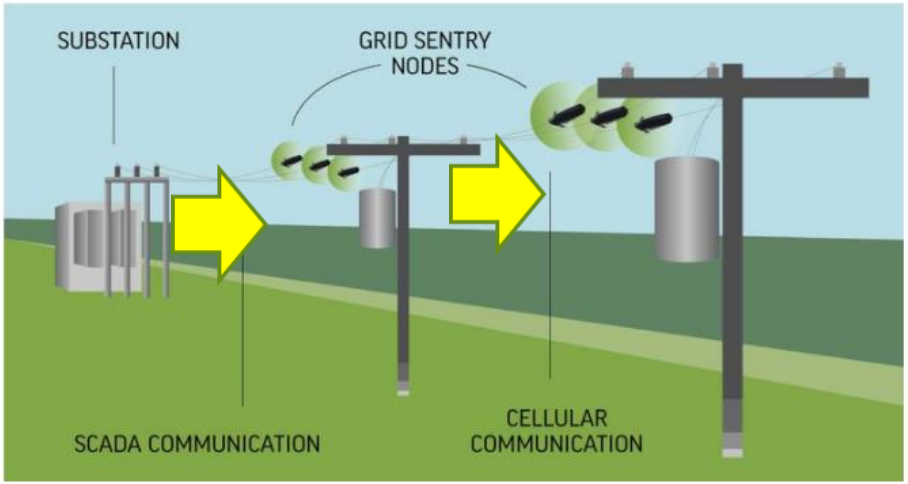
Preparing for a Better Broadband Future

- Unforeseen Technical Convergence
- Envisioning a Better Future
- Leveraging “Generational” funding

The emergence of technologies in new ways

- Utilities – Fiber as a Sensor
  - Wildlife
  - Traffic
  - Pipeline Breaks
- Fire Evacuation Systems
- Sensors – Gateway to Smart Cities



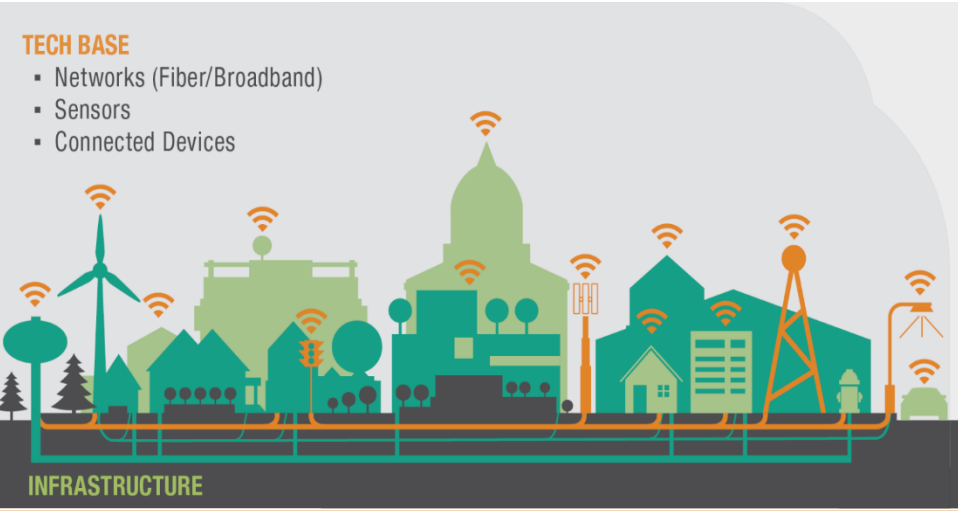
Interconnecting everything:

- Streetlights, Utilities, Energy
- Traffic Signals, Parking, Roads
- Transit, People, Logistic Systems
- Sensors: Fire, Wearables, Cameras, Drones
- Technology is the enabler
- Communications are the common thread

Why is this Convergence Crucial

- Making infrastructure SMART to move citizens to ACTION

Smart City begins with the tech base... ...enables ...and drives



APPLICATIONS

- Security
- Healthcare
- Mobility
- Energy
- Water
- Waste
- Economic Development + Housing
- Engagement + Community

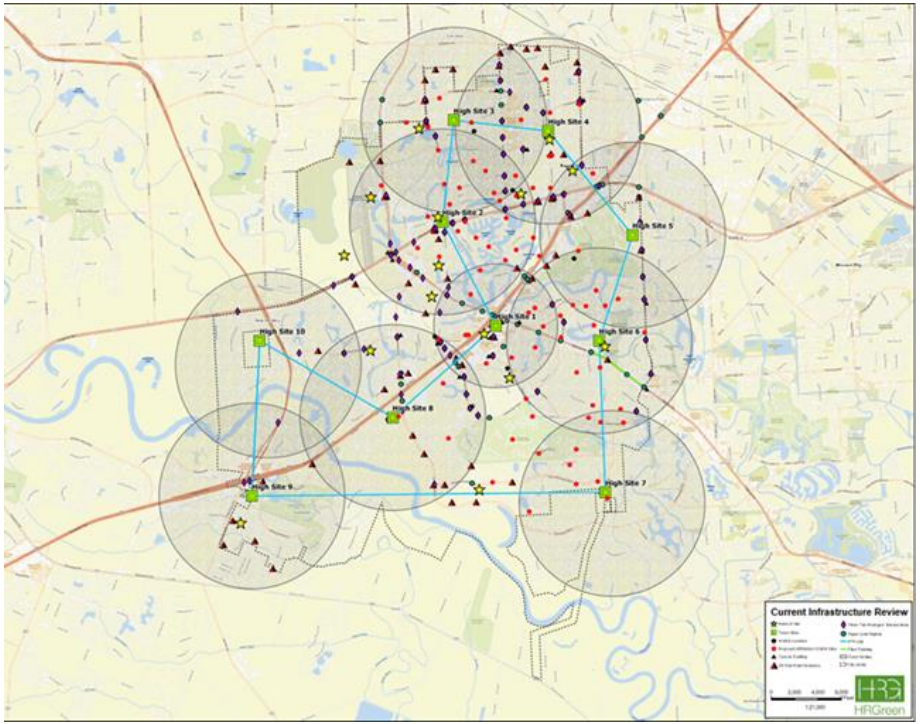
PUBLIC BENEFITS

- Health
- Time + Convenience
- Safety
- Cost of Living
- Jobs
- Social Connectedness + Civic Participation
- Environmental Quality

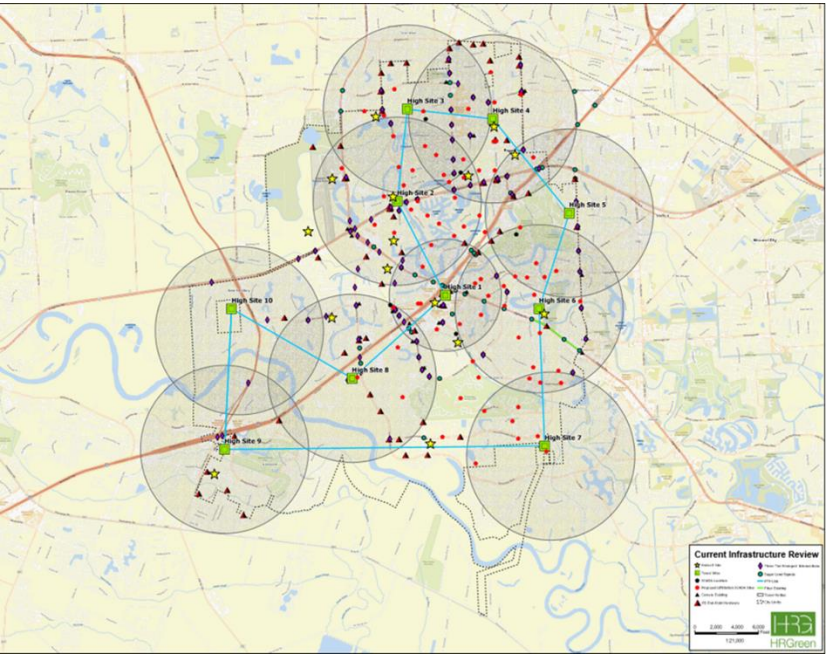
** McKinsey Global Institute - 2018*

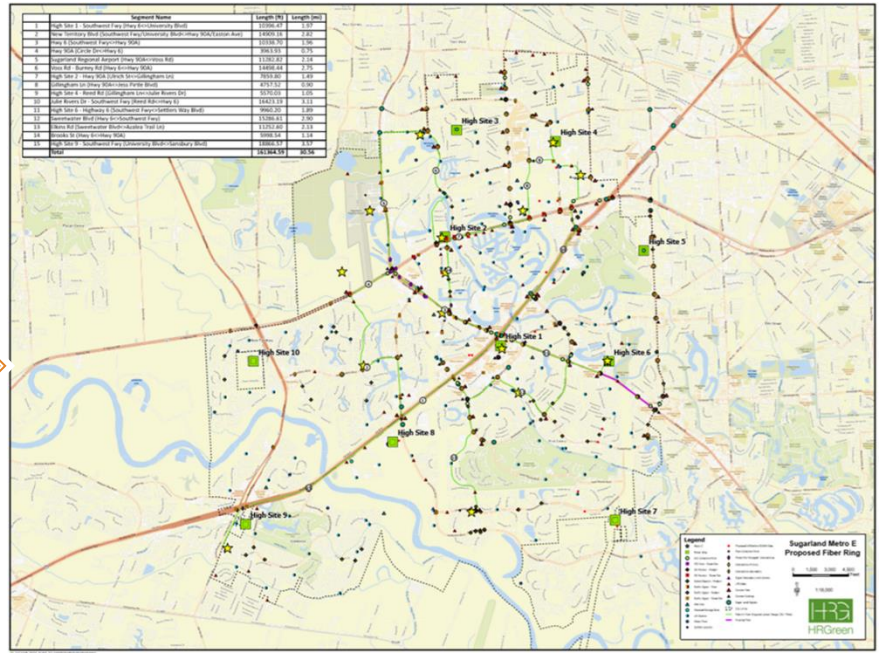
From Complexity/Cost to Simplicity & Impact

- Communication consolidation
- Simplified, consolidated and hybrid approach
- Potential for monetization



Creating a Converged Network Plan





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Preparing for a Better Broadband Future

- Unforeseen Technical Convergence
- Envisioning a Better Future
- “Generational” funding opportunity

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Creating a Vision and Roadmap for Your Community

- Your path must align to your unique community Vision
- Roadmap is based on political and economic realities

Municipal Success Story

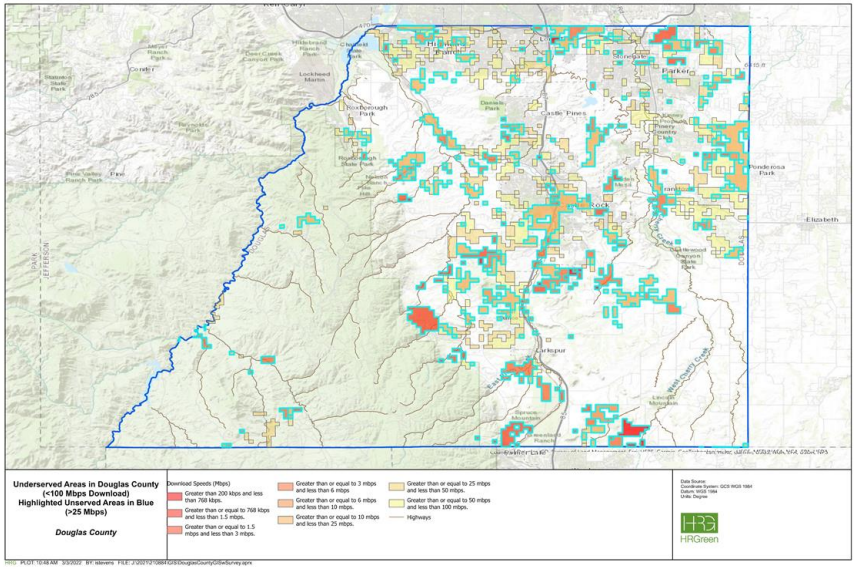
- Municipally Owned/Operated
  - Higher Risk/More Control over outcomes
  - Leveraged Utility Expertise
  - “Fastest City” in America
  - Significant economic development upticks

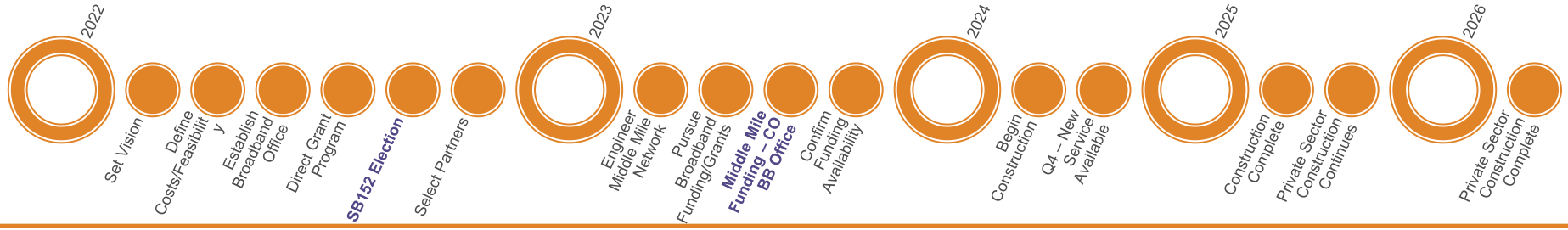
POWER & COMMUNICATIONS
CITY OF LONGMONT COLORADO
Est. 1912

nextLight
LONGMONT'S BROADBAND

Long Game Starts Now

- Considering a Five-Year Program
  - Programmatic Support
  - Partnership Driven
  - Ideologically Aligned





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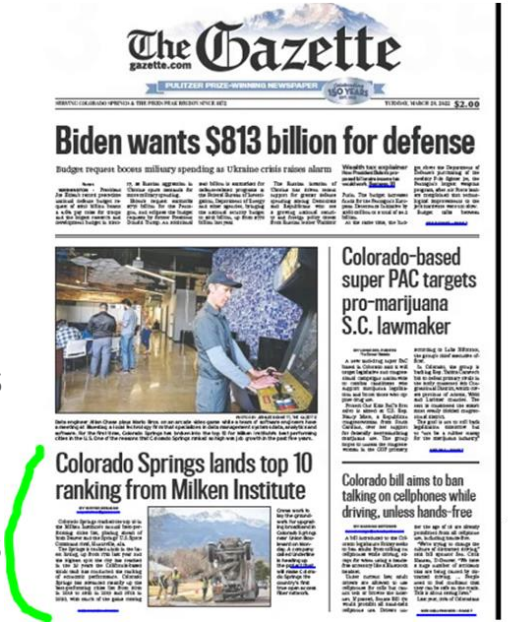
A Policy Success

- Year Four of 2018 Broadband Plan
  - Successful IGA for 24-mile Ute Pass Fiber
  - Colocation Project w/ Three Carriers
  - Planned MVEA Build (70% of Underserved Rural geography)
  - Colorado Springs Broadband BOOM



The Gazette
gazette.com
PULITZER PRIZE–WINNING NEWSPAPER

Biden wants $813 billion for defense

Budget request boosts military spending as Ukraine crisis raises alarm

Colorado-based super PAC targets pro-marijuana S.C. lawmaker

Colorado Springs lands top 10 ranking from Milken Institute

Colorado bill aims to ban talking on cellphones while driving, unless hands-free

The institute gave Colorado Springs high marks for broadband access, job growth in the past five years and growth in high-technology output. The city ranked in the top half of every category but one, ranking 150th of 200 in housing

The institute calculated the rankings using data on job creation, wage growth, technology industry output and concentration, high-speed internet access and housing affordability. As a result, cities in

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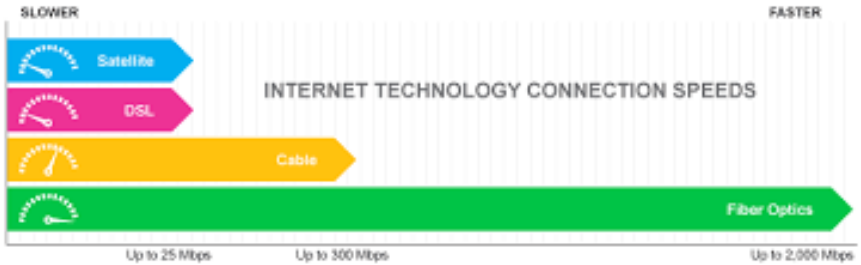
Key Broadband Funding Programs

- ARPA – State and Local Recovery Funds ($220BB/$130BB)
- Capital Projects Fund ($10BB)
- Infrastructure Act/BEAD Grants ($42.5BB)
- Additional Smart/Energy dollars

Establishing a New Model

- Funding eligibility moves from 25/3 mbps to 100/20 mbps
- Strengthened state control of funding via state-run project grants
- Preference for Public and Public/Private Partnerships (P3)



Keys to Success

- Develop or Update a Communication Master Plan
- Create “shovel ready” projects
- Develop private-sector partnerships
- Work with CO Broadband Office to prepare projects
- Be Ready to Leverage the Funding Wave

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